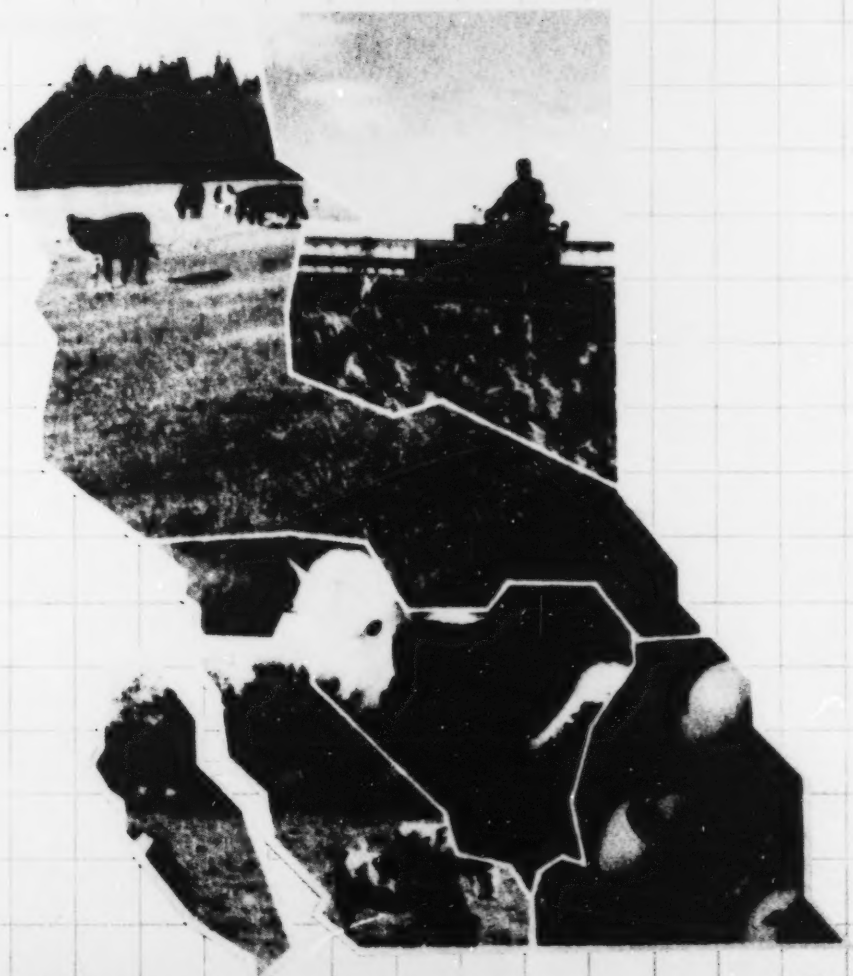
Agriculture Profile

Prince George District

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food



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PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

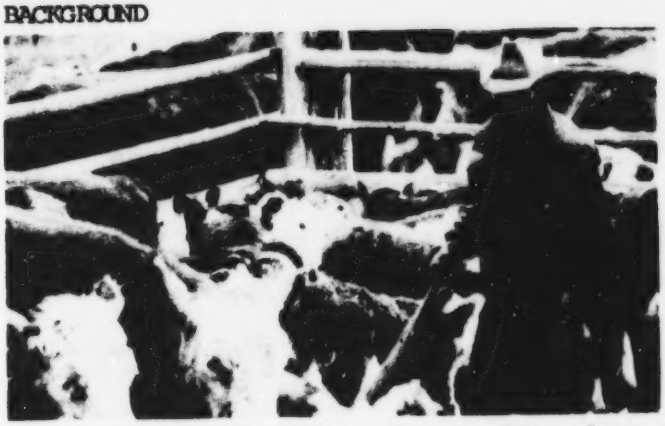
Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND



The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Prince George District are to the area covered by census division 53-Fraser-Fort George.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

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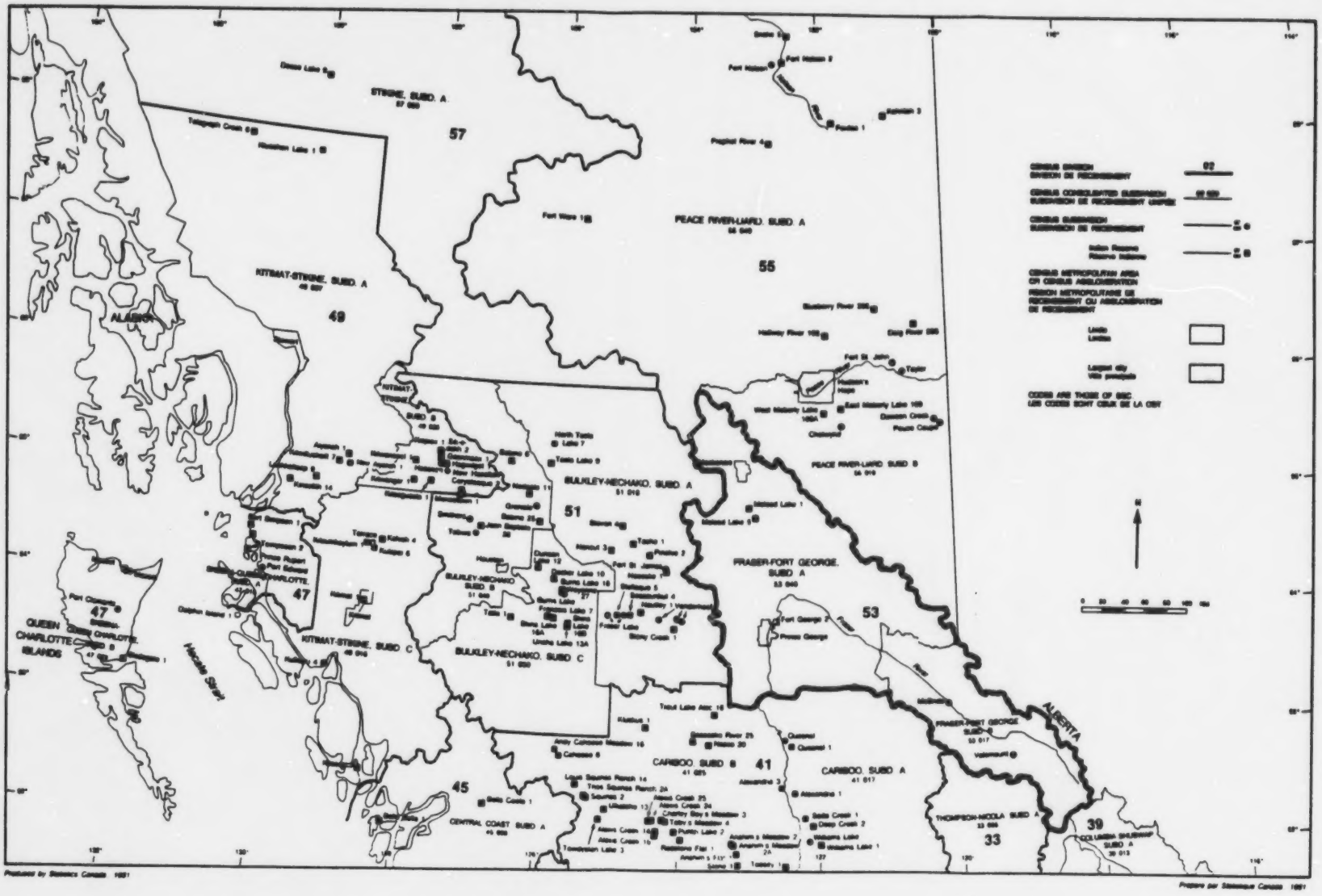
PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Prince George Agricultural District occupies 5.1 million hectares in the Central Agricultural Reporting Region. The district consists of high rolling plateau, part of which gives way to the Skeena and Hazelton Mountains. The Bulkley Valley lies between the two ranges.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 89,430, an increase of 12.3 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has shifted slightly over the last few years, the urban segment now represents 72.6 percent of the total population up from 70.5 percent in 1976. Total experienced labour force totals 46,190, with the majority employed in the manufacturing, personal services, trade and utility sectors.

The major agricultural activity in the district consists of beef production. In 1981, cattle production was the primary activity of 40 percent of farms. Field crops, almost exclusively fodder crops accounted for 17 percent of holdings while miscellaneous specialty production was reported by 12 percent of operations. Cattle production was the primary activity of 41 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $11.7 million in 1981, 1.3 percent of the provincial total. Cattle and calves and dairy accounted for 36 and 25 percent of receipts respectively.

The Prince George District accounts for 81,658 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 4 percent of the provincial total. The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission has designated 363,830 hectares as potentially arable. The total number of farms enumerated by the 1981 Census of Agriculture was 640. Farms are larger than the provincial average in Prince George where average farm size is 127 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 46 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

Availability of relatively low cost land coupled with excellent summer growing conditions give this district high production potential. The major opportunity for agricultural expansion exists in beef production with the development of both backgrounding and and finishing operations. Operators are discovering new profit opportunities in backgrounding their own cattle though use of cereal silage. The city of Prince George provides a large and growing market for agricultural produce in the area. High land clearing and breaking costs represent one of the main obstacles to agricultural growth in the district. Typical land clearing costs averaged around $450 per hectare in 1981, an increase of 150 percent over 1976 levels. However, high development costs are partially offset by low property prices which in 1983 averaged around $900 per hectare in the Prince George Assessment Area.

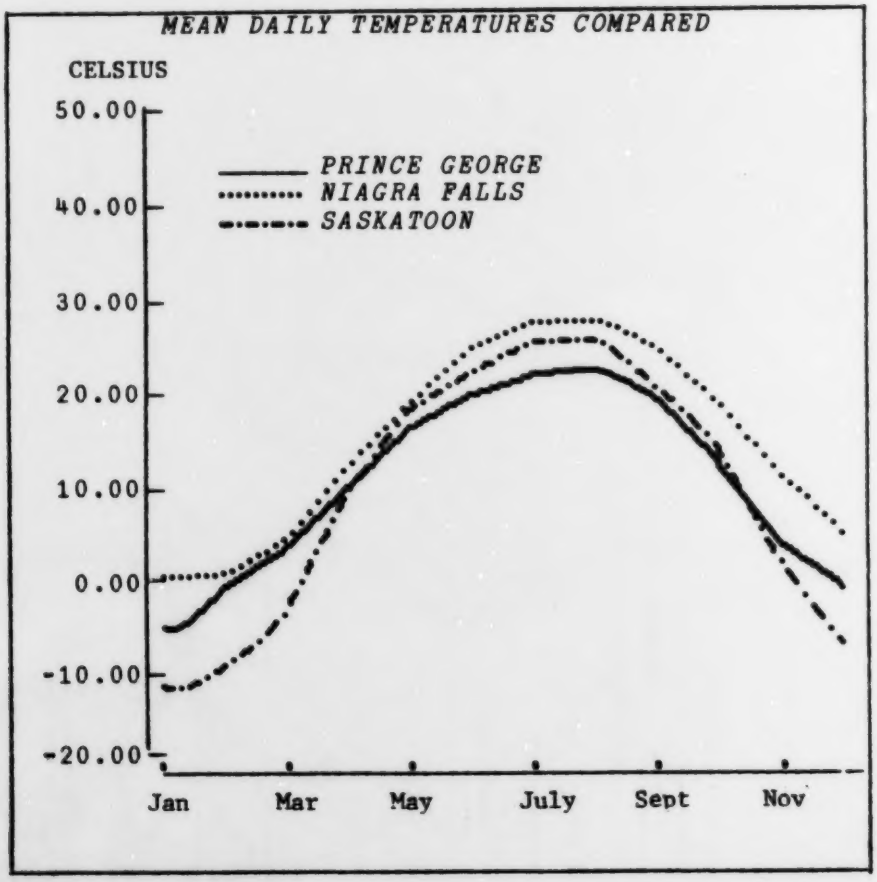
TABLE 1

CLIMATIC DATA

PRINCE GEORGE/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	PRINCE GEORGE	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	1,198.8	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	85	172	117
Total Precipitation	628.3	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada



CENTRAL ALR AREAS

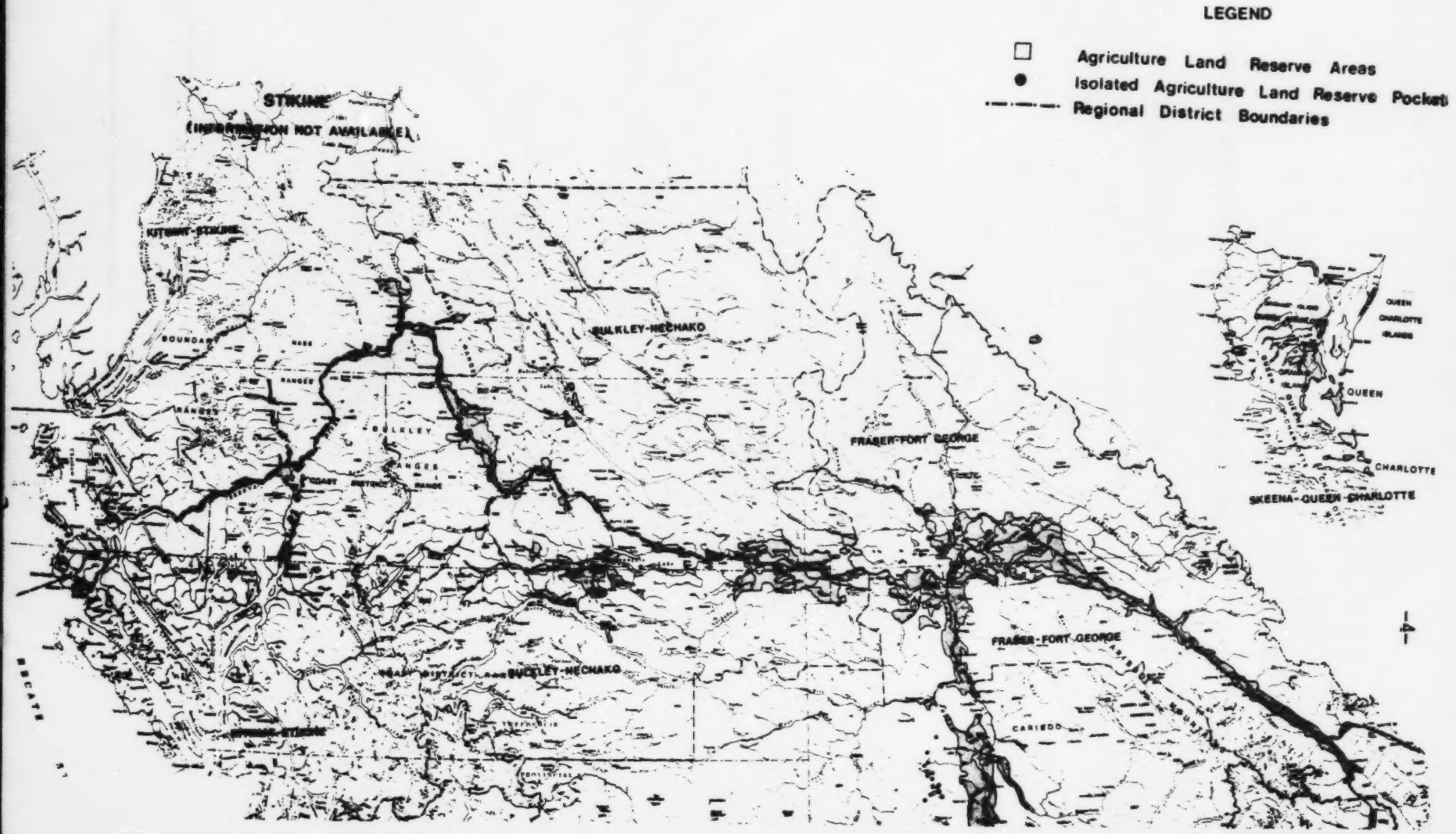


TABLE 2
FRASER FORT GEORGE REGIONAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES
SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	0	850	5,700	11,100	17,650	4,490	310	1,210	0	23,660	7
Horticulture	0	170	210	90	470	10	40	10	0	530	0
Grassland and Pasture	0	270	1,700	6,150	8,120	3,490	140	700	0	12,450	3
Forest	0	2,490	27,760	142,420	172,670	92,070	4,350	37,570	0	306,660	84
Non-Productive Lands	0	90	540	2,100	2,730	2,100	130	390	15,180	20,530	6
Total	0	3,870	35,910	161,860	201,640	102,160	4,970	39,880	15,180	363,830	
% Total	0	1	10	45	56	28	1	11	4		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Tallsman Project Inc., 1980.

CENTRAL LAND CAPABILITY

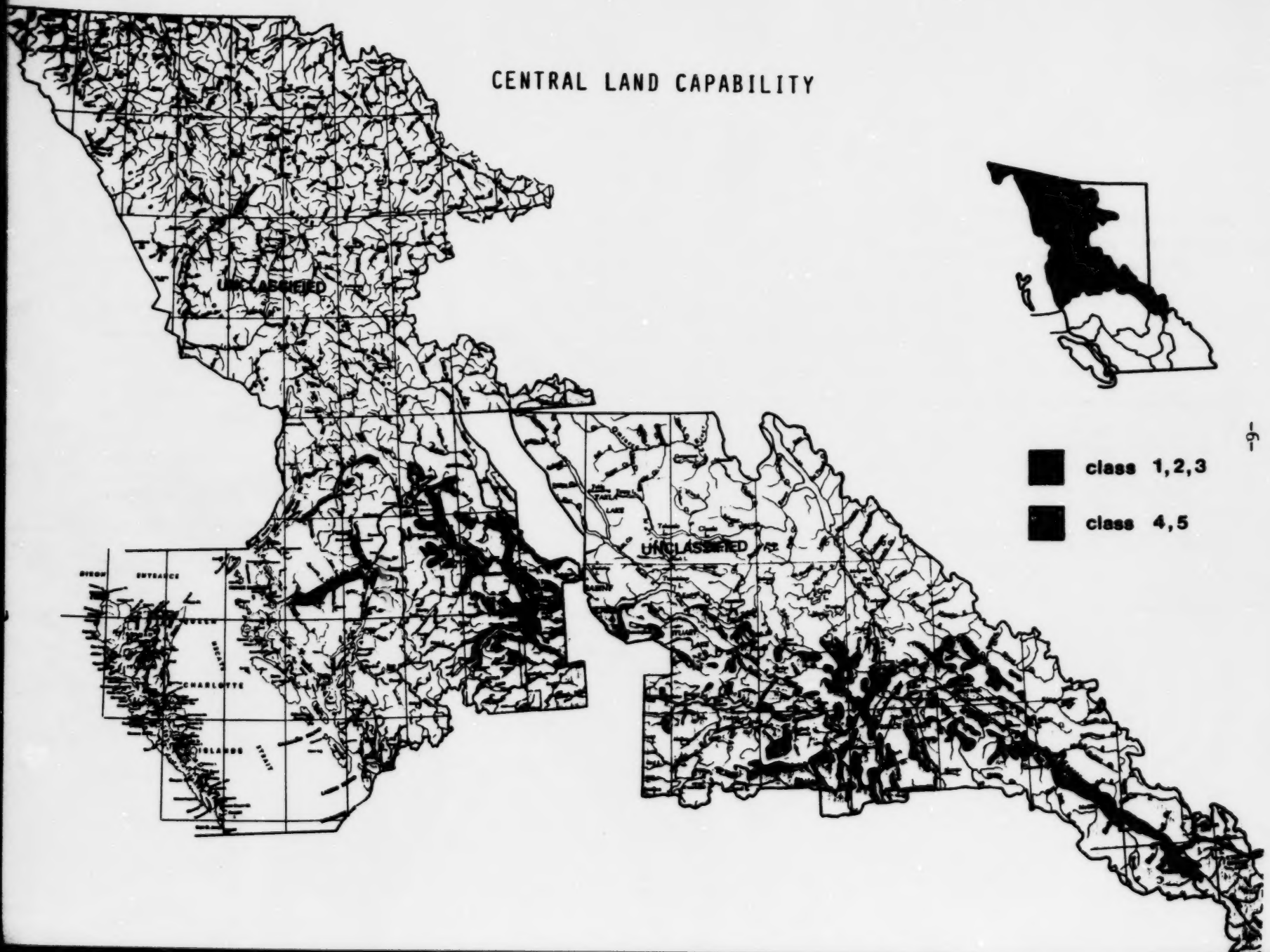


TABLE 3

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares:										
Unimproved	-	9,545	91,831	461,509	1,240,611	428,253	4,110,796	506,906	30,438,133	37,287,585
Improved**	40	9,505	100,374	481,299	1,220,768	433,605	4,096,954	506,906	30,438,133	37,287,585
Percent:										
Unimproved	-	0.03	0.25	1.2	3.3	1.2	11.02	1.36	81.63	100.00
Improved**	-	0.03	0.27	1.3	3.3	1.2	10.99	1.36	81.63	100.00

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	1	303.9
1982	0	-
1981	1	127.9
1980	0	-
1980-1983	2	431.8
TOTAL	24	2,809.2

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	18	1,517.0
1982	43	4,382.0
1981	8	1,043.6
1980	8	843.7
1980-1983	77	7,786.2
TOTAL	135	12,946.8

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	1	14.1
1981	2	4.2
1980	1	4.9
1980-1983	4	23.1
TOTAL	7	39.0

Total lease area in Prince George: 1980-1983: 8,241.11
Total lease area in Prince George: 15,794.36

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS PRINCE GEORGE, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	198	74	113	94	112	49	640
Total Area of Farms	14,910	4,664	10,779	11,225	24,681	15,399	81,658
Total Improved Land Area	4,384	1,989	4,638	5,494	12,433	8,735	37,673
Total Area Under Crop	1,737	892	2,261	2,945	6,902	5,021	19,756
Number of Farms Reporting	149	59	95	89	108	45	545
Area of Improved Pasture	1,764	793	1,748	2,208	4,236	3,066	13,814
Number of Farms Reporting	104	47	80	71	88	34	424
Area in Summer Fallow	327	85	327	43	433	95	1,310
Number of Farms Reporting	23	10	19	5	21	5	83
Other Improved Land Area	555	184	302	299	862	554	2,792
Number of Farms Reporting	144	54	87	67	76	38	466
Total Unimproved Land Area	10,528	2,675	6,141	5,731	12,249	6,664	43,982
Woodland Area	2,139	924	1,702	1,681	2,603	3,070	12,117
Number of Farms Reporting	74	24	41	32	40	21	232
Other Unimproved Land Area	8,389	1,751	4,439	4,050	9,646	3,594	31,869
Number of Farms Reporting	119	43	82	63	78	38	423

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1971	302	63	35	41
1976	403	99	71	82
1981	162	82	63	116

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 7

PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	5	4	1	2	4	14	30
Cattle	35	18	54	54	72	20	253
Hogs	8	3	2	3	3	-	19
Poultry	47	13	9	3	4	5	81
Small Grains	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Other Field Crops	38	11	14	11	8	3	85
Fruits and Vegetables	5	1	1	2	2	-	11
Miscellaneous Specialty	25	8	15	11	10	5	74
Livestock Combination	16	5	10	5	5	1	42
Field Crop Combinations	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other Combinations	8	4	3	1	1	-	17
TOTAL	198	74	113	94	112	49	640

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	4	-	-	1	-	-	5
3-9 Acres	32	7	7	3	3	3	55
10-69 Acres	57	17	15	5	6	2	102
70-129 Acres	23	11	11	12	5	-	62
130-179 Acres	53	19	38	17	16	3	146
180-239 Acres	6	5	5	11	3	2	32
240-399 Acres	13	8	17	23	22	6	89
400-559 Acres	5	6	6	10	15	10	52
560-759 Acres	2	1	9	7	16	7	42
760-1119 Acres	2	-	4	3	14	6	29
1120-1599 Acres	-	-	1	2	7	4	14
1600 Acres and Over	1	-	-	-	5	6	12
TOTAL	198	74	113	94	112	49	640

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

PRINCE GEORGE: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of low income operations. In 1981, 75 percent of farms had sales less than $10,000 compared to 60 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $15,600 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Prince George District reported some off farm income, with 74 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 92 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 86 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 8 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 63 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 census reported 15 fewer holdings than in 1976. Land clearing has accounted for over 75 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures since 1971, with over 5,300 hectares cleared during the period 1971-81. Approximately 18 percent of funds are allocated to land breaking, which has totalled 3,700 hectares since 1971. Operators report using 2,558 tonnes of fertilizer on 16,411 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $84 million in 1976 to $166 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $128,000 to $259,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings, livestock and machinery has remained relatively constant since 1976. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $2,031, about one-half of the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 55-59 age group, the 1981 census reported 15 fewer operators in the area than in 1976, the district now represents 3.2 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	2	-	-	1	3
$10,000-24,999	4	1	1	-	6
$25,000-49,999	23	3	1	1	28
$50,000-99,999	73	20	3	-	96
$100,000-199,999	120	86	29	-	235
$200,000-499,999	43	84	53	16	196
$500,000 AND OVER	7	13	25	31	76
TOTAL	272	207	112	49	640

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	272	207	112	49	640
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	40,225,489	49,306,194	41,498,256	34,839,412	165,869,351
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	35,534,354	40,841,888	31,513,344	24,444,123	132,333,709
VALUE OF MACHINERY	3,819,583	5,360,415	5,237,891	4,576,300	18,994,189
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	871,552	3,103,891	4,747,021	5,818,989	14,541,453
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	147,888	238,194	370,520	711,008	259,171
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	108	38	12	4	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE II

1983 SALES OF FARMS-CENTRAL REGION

Area Name	No. Pcls.	Hectares	Sale Price	Value of Improvements	Residual Value	Actual Value	Assessment Sales Ratio	Mkt Value $/Hectare
Northwest	17	1,496	$1,697,000	$243,500	$1,453,500	$318,870	0.219	971
Prince George	36	2,815	2,985,201	458,400	2,526,801	904,311	0.358	897

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	5	4	-1
25 - 34	123	108	-15
35 - 44	208	172	-36
45 - 54	193	196	+3
55 - 59	53	80	+27
60- 64	44	36	-8
65 - 69	13	27	+14
70 & Over	16	17	+1
TOTAL	655	640	-15
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	3.4	3.2	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
CENTRAL REGION
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $'000s	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Fraser-Ft. George	310	17.8	5,524.5	299	(6.28)	(1,945.9)	210	10.8	299	15.1	4,689.4	8.9	2,743.5
Prince George	770	14.7	11,295.1	756	(3.27)	(2,521.0)	589	18.3	753	25.0	19,209.1	21.7	16,688.2
Bulkley-Nechako	1,170	26.6	31,103.3	1,143	(2.10)	(2,453.5)	762	12.3	1,128	17.2	20.166.1	15.1	17,712.6
Stikine	10	15.2	151.6	10	404	4040	8	11.5	10	22.2	221.6	22.6	225.6
Kitimat-Stikine	190	7.9	1,503.3	185	(3.85)	(730.7)	144	15.5	190	22.4	4,247.8	18.5	8,517.1
Skeena	10	6.3	63.2	8	(1.59)	(15.88)	7	14.3	9	17.6	175.8	16.0	159.9
Prince Rupert	15	3.1	45.7	15	(1.04)	(15.54)	13	22.9	15	28.0	420.6	27.0	405.1
Total/ Omineca	2,475	20.1	49,686.8	2,416	3.10	(7,678.5)	1,733		2,404	19.9	49,130.4	16.8	41,452.0

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: PRINCE GEORGE

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	198	74	113	94	112	49	640
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	31,082	10,773	16,557	13,930	10,493	1,628	84,463
FARMS REPORTING	149	54	86	65	59	14	427
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	1,801	695	1,135	910	1,919	155	6,615
FARMS REPORTING	19	4	9	7	13	2	54
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	29,281	10,078	15,422	13,020	8,574	1,473	77,848
FARMS REPORTING	142	50	80	62	51	14	399

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	TOTAL
1-6 Days	-	1	-	2	1	1	5
7-12	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
13-24	4	2	1	1	1	3	12
25-48	6	-	3	1	7	1	18
49-72	3	2	5	1	5	1	17
73-96	10	-	6	1	-	-	17
97-126	4	5	3	6	8	2	28
127-156	13	1	6	6	4	-	30
157-228	33	20	29	13	10	4	109
229-365	76	22	32	34	23	2	189
Total	149	54	86	65	59	14	427

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: PRINCE GEORGE

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	198	74	113	94	112	49	640
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	122	89	243	307	1,057	3,032	4,850
FARMS REPORTING	23	11	32	35	53	41	195
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	55	52	80	90	573	2,064	2,914
FARMS REPORTING	4	1	6	5	10	17	43
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	67	37	163	217	484	968	1,936
FARMS REPORTING	19	10	27	31	45	35	167

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, APRIL 1971 - MARCH 1982: PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hecatares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1971/72	146	96	14	124	32	4	-	-	1	19
1972/73	347	124	43	198	25	5	-	-	2	50
1973/74	456	129	59	206	27	6	-	-	-	56
1974/75	756	165	125	447	45	20	-	-	5	150
1975/76	903	174	157	663	42	28	-	-	7	192
1976/77	572	177	101	432	53	23	-	-	2	126
1977/78	545	220	120	373	54	20	-	-	7	147
1978/79	614	238	143	475	112	53	-	-	9	205
1979/80	458	254	116	350	125	44	-	-	20	180
1980/81	229	354	81	227	119	27	9	-	27	144
1981/82	256	449	115	226	124	28	-	-	28	171

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: PRINCE GEORGE

Spraying and Dusting (any)	45
Weed Control (Hec.)	648
Farms Reporting	42
For Insect Control (Hec.)	15
Farms Reporting	6
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	350
Farms Reporting	30
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	238
Farms Reporting	19

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: PRINCE GEORGE

Total Area (hectares)	16,411
Tonnes	2,558
No. Reports of Any Use	339
Total Cropland (Hec.)	4,544
Tonnes	715
Farms Reporting	146
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	8,852
Tonnes	1,335
Farms Reporting	254
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	3,015
Tonnes	508
Farms Reporting	130

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $9 million or 77 percent of total farm cash receipts. Cattle operations accounted for $4.2 million of this total or 4 percent of provincial beef sales. Total cattle herd size increased by 15 percent to 23,700 head over the period 1976-81. The dairy industry is relatively stable with the dairy herd experiencing a 20 percent increase to 1,220 head since 1976.

Sheep production has remained relatively small, mostly in small farm flocks. Predator problems are a constant source of difficulty for the industry and hinder large scale production. The hog industry has remained relatively minor, mostly as a subsidiary activity, the hog population has more than doubled to 1,800 since 1976. The majority of production is marketed to local processors, there has been considerable interest in large scale production among operators in recent years.

The poultry industry appears relatively stable with the chicken population experiencing virtually no expansion since 1976. The majority of the chicken population is concentrated in the $50,000+ sales bracket. Other poultry products, primarily ducks and geese have experienced some growth over the last few years increasing 29 percent since 1976, mostly in small farm flocks.

Vegetables/Specialty Crops

Field vegetable receipts totalled $200,000 in 1981, potato production accounts for nearly one-half of this total. Census data indicates that 11 holdings report vegetable production as a intensive activity and that there are 28 hectares under field vegetable production in the district. Local soil types, particularly sandy and silt loams are favourable for cole crop production. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $306,000, there were over 8,000 square meters of greenhouse space in 1981. Floriculture/nursery is also important, 1981 receipts totalled $160,000.

Small Fruit/Tree Fruit

Small fruit receipts, mostly strawberries and other berries were valued at $19,000 in 1981, the district has 2.8 hectares under cultivation. Tree fruit production totalled $9,000 in 1981, apple cultivation accounts for most of the 1.8 hectares of tree fruit area in the district.

Field Crops

Field crops, mostly barley and oats totalled $184,000 in 1981 farm cash receipts. Approximately 90 percent of total crop area is devoted to fodder crops for the local cattle industry. Soil characteristics and climatic conditions in the area generally lend themselves to high quality forage production. High clay content reduces irrigation requirements since an adequate moisture supply is received throughout the growing season. Crops particularly well suited to the clay lands include timothy, brome, red clover and oat-barley cereal silage. Honey is also an important cash crop with 1981 receipts totalling $82,000.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	17.64	0.15	0.20
Oats	59.27	0.51	2.04
Barley	84.82	0.72	1.03
CWB Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canola	22.31	0.19	1.08
Potatoes	95.22	0.81	0.52
Small Fruits	18.81	0.16	0.05
Field Vegetables	104.44	0.89	0.36
Floriculture/Nursery	159.85	1.37	0.31
Forest Prod.	138.91	1.19	5.94
Cattle & Calves	4,234.42	36.18	3.45
Income Ins.	615.86	5.26	
Hogs	364.71	3.12	0.70
Income Ins.	0.66	0.01	
Sheep	50.27	0.43	1.91
Income Ins.	2.95	0.03	
Poultry & Eggs	1,378.82	11.78	1.02
Income Ins.	0.09	0.00	
Dairy Products	2,966.36	25.34	1.37
C.D.C. Subsidy	118.43	1.01	
Honey	81.92	0.70	1.61
Tree Fruit	8.54	0.07	0.02
Income Ins.	3.65	0.03	
Hothouse	305.83	2.61	1.06
Income Ins.	10.73	0.09	
Other	859.05	7.34	1.26
TOTAL	11,704.00		

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: PRINCE GEORGE-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	198	74	113	94	112	49	640
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canola	16	-	-	-	119	140	275
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	2	4	7
Tame Hay - Total	1,340	673	1,836	2,261	5,665	3,517	15,293
Farms Reporting	120	52	86	81	98	44	481
Alfalfa and Mixtures	128	58	57	183	728	687	1,840
Farms Reporting	11	9	8	9	16	14	67
Other Tame Hay	1,212	615	1,780	2,078	4,938	2,830	13,452
Farms Reporting	110	47	82	76	91	36	442
Oats for Fodder	172	23	167	209	299	442	1,310
Farms Reporting	23	7	27	22	27	14	120
Other Fodder Crops	30	61	50	213	181	196	731
Farms Reporting	6	2	5	9	10	8	40

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22

PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	198	74	113	94	112	49	640
Vegetables	5.3	0.28	1.8	1.5	16	3.6	28
Farms Reporting	10	2	2	3	6	1	24
Asparagus	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Beans	0.24	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.28
Farms Reporting	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Beets	0.57	0.04	0.28	0.04	0.2	-	1.1
Farms Reporting	6	1	2	1	1	-	11
Broccoli	0.57	-	0.08	0.04	2.0	-	2.7
Farms Reporting	6	-	1	1	1	-	9
Cabbage	0.57	-	0.28	0.12	7.7	1.6	10
Farms Reporting	5	-	2	2	4	1	14
Carrots	0.65	0.04	0.28	0.65	0.85	-	2.5
Farms Reporting	8	1	2	2	3	-	16
Cauliflower	0.32	0.04	-	0.04	2.2	-	2.6
Farms Reporting	4	1	-	1	2	-	8
Cucumbers	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green Peas	0.49	-	0.28	0.08	0.41	-	1.3
Farms Reporting	4	-	2	1	1	-	8
Lettuce	0.28	-	0.08	-	1.2	-	1.6
Farms Reporting	3	-	1	-	1	-	5
Onions (Dry)	0.28	-	0.2	0.04	-	-	0.53
Farms Reporting	3	-	1	1	-	-	5
Rutabagas	0.36	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.61	2.0	3.2
Farms Reporting	5	2	1	1	2	1	12
Sweet Corn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tomatoes	-	-	-	-	0.41	-	0.41
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Vegetables	0.93	0.04	0.24	0.41	-	-	1.6
Farms Reporting	4	1	1	1	-	-	7

TABLE 23
PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	198	74	113	94	112	49	640
Small Fruits	2.2	-	0.36	0.2	-	-	2.8
Farms Reporting	6	-	2	1	-	-	9
Strawberries	1.9	-	0.08	0.2	-	-	2.2
Farms Reporting	5	-	1	1	-	-	7
Grapes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Berries	0.32	-	0.28	-	-	-	0.61
Farms Reporting	2	-	2	-	-	-	4

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	198	74	113	94	112	49	640
Tree Fruits	1.6	-	-	0.2	-	-	1.8
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
Apple	0.61	-	-	0.2	-	-	0.81
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
No. of Apple Trees	155	-	-	40	-	-	195
Pear	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Pear Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plum and Prune	0.41	-	-	-	-	-	0.41
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Number of Trees	80	-	-	-	-	-	80
Cherry (Sweet)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Cherry Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry (Sour)	0.41	-	-	-	-	-	0.41
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Number of Trees	70	-	-	-	-	-	70
Peach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Peach Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apricot	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	0.2
Farms reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
No. of Apricot Trees	5	-	-	-	-	-	5

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	272	207	112	49	640
Nusery Products	n.a.	-	-	n.a.	3.9
Farms Reporting	3	-	-	1	4
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	n.a.	608	59,974	n.a.	8,163
Farms Reporting	8	8	4	1	21

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	272	207	112	49	640
Cattle-Total Number	1,158	5,089	8,624	8,823	23,694
Farms Reporting	136	152	87	39	414
Cows-Total Number	432	2,178	3,653	3,026	9,289
Farms Reporting	115	145	85	35	308
Dairy Cows-Number	122	117	80	901	1,220
Farms Reporting	55	41	18	18	132
Beef Cows-Number	310	2,061	3,573	2,125	8,069
Farms Reporting	73	125	79	23	300
Heifers-Total Number	172	756	980	1,943	3,851
Farms Reporting	68	111	73	35	287
Steers-Number	129	366	661	1,439	2,595
Farms Reporting	59	81	54	23	217
Bulls-Number	61	174	237	137	609
Farms Reporting	47	100	74	26	247
Calves-Number	364	1,615	3,093	2,278	7,350
Farms Reporting	106	132	80	33	351
Pigs-Total Number	766	468	519	37	1,790
Farms Reporting	61	32	21	9	123
Sheep-Total Number	297	736	238	6	1,277
Farms Reporting	18	18	10	3	49
Horses-Number	492	420	308	100	1,320
Farms Reporting	118	103	48	24	293

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 27
PRINCE GEORGE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	272	207	112	49	640
Hens/Chickens Total No.	8,687	7,426	3,591	81,936	101,640
Farms Reporting	161	109	49	20	339
Turkeys-Number	403	364	44	54	865
Farms Reporting	39	29	4	7	79
Geese-Number	332	266	139	13	750
Farms Reporting	45	34	12	4	95
Ducks-Number	229	256	n.a.	n.a.	530
Farms Reporting	33	30	8	2	73

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of tress planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1 land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.

Class 2 land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.

Class 3 land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.

Class 4 land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.

Class 5 land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.

Class 6 land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.

Class 7 land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.

UNIMPROVED These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.

IMPROVED These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.

WATER SURFACES This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.

OTHER This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

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